



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

## DHS role in disaster recovery August 24, 2010

### Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program

- Eligible households have income at or below 200 percent FPL (\$2,430/month gross family of two).
- Grants apply in various categories, including motel expenses. Maximum grant \$5,000/household.
- Program launched when governor declares disaster AND at request of local disaster officials.
- Grants not applicable in counties that are declared presidential disasters for individual assistance (which offers much greater assistance).
- This is a reimbursement program. Original receipts required. A voucher component will be added in October.
- Grant apps, instructions, and deadlines at [http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance\\_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Assistance_Programs/CashAssistance/DisasterAssistance/StormHelp.html)
- Funded via request to Executive Council as needed up to a maximum \$1 million per fiscal year.

### Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance

- Eligible households have income at or below 300 percent FPL (\$3,643/month gross family of two).
- Grants to cover disaster expenses not otherwise covered by insurance, charity, or government programs. Maximum \$2,500/household. Recipient must first apply to FEMA or SBA.
- Reimbursement or voucher.
- Applicable only in counties declared disaster by president.
- Local Long Term Recovery Committees will certify amount of assistance. See: [http://www.rio.iowa.gov/assets/LTRC\\_map.pdf](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/assets/LTRC_map.pdf)
- Program extends until June 30, 2011, or when \$5 million funding is exhausted.

### Emergency Food Stamps

- Eligibility rules are streamlined and more relaxed than regular food stamp eligibility. Especially important is calculation of short-term disaster-related expenses versus monthly income.
- Unlike regular food stamp program, the emergency benefit is one-time, non-renewable. Benefits depend on household size and are not graduated. Example, \$668 for eligible household of four.
- In similar program in disaster of 2008, 35,000 people received help. Eighty percent were not eligible for regular food stamps.
- Benefits available only in counties declared disaster for individual assistance.
- Applications will be accepted at federal disaster recovery centers and DHS county offices.
- Benefits via a debit-like swipe card. To be used for food only.
- Benefits 100 percent federal funds. Admin costs split 50/50 state/federal.

### Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams

- Trained volunteers and DHS staff respond as requested to local disaster areas. Teams have visited at least 20 counties so far in summer of 2010.
- Teams specialize in rumor control, information sharing, and crisis counseling.
- For more information: <http://www.iowadbhrt.org/>